

of the apertures at a given rate to produce a gas pressure which is higher above and in the or apertures than below the apertures and dissipates and dissipates below the apertures” in claims 1 and 2; “bleeding gas into the vicinity of the apertures at a given rate to produce a gas pressure which is higher above and in the or apertures than below the apertures and dissipates and dissipates below the apertures” in claims 3 and 4; and “a shroud separating the enclosure into upper and lower parts; and vacuum lines from the evacuation pump connected to the enclosure above the shroud and below the shroud” in claims 5 and 6.

These features specify noteworthy aspects that help operation of the method and apparatus and differ patentably from the claims in the parent patent.

The dependent claims are believed more particularly to be patentable because of the features recited therein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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